

**"FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS,"**

OR,

Nine plain Questions to the people of *Connecticut*,  
with a brief reply to each,

BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM.

Question 4th.—*Why did an opposition exist against the administrations of Washington and Adams?*

**I**T will be recollected by those who recur to the adoption of the constitution that it met with a violent opposition in the state conventions. This was particularly the case in the larger States. It was long doubtful how the question would be decided in Massachusetts, New-York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In North-Carolina, New-Hampshire, and Rhode-Island, it was at first, rejected. Vermont was not then a member of the Union, and Kentucky and Tennessee, have since been erected into states. In Connecticut, New-Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia it was speedily adopted. Connecticut, as it was before remarked, clearly saw her future welfare in that Constitution—she had suffered enough from her powerful neighbours—she wished such security against oppressive and partial imposts, as she has since experienced.—Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New-York, on the contrary, felt this as a deadly blow to their state pride—to their gigantic strides at national aggrandizement. It was humiliating to the ancient dominion, to learn that Delaware was to have an equal vote with her in one important branch of the national legislature\*.

It is also obvious that the establishment of the general government, must of necessity, diminish the greatness and grandeur of state officers. Ambition saw no charms in this.—Hence Mr. Jefferson who had been governor of Virginia—Gov. Clinton and Mr. Samuel Adams, were among its opposers. This was the fact respecting many other leading men in the several states, and it is a truth which must have weight in this place, that those men with few exceptions, who opposed that constitution, have since been found in the ranks of democracy.

When this government went into operation, many great offices were to be bestowed. Ambition here was on fire. The venerable man who then presided filled the offices with singular wisdom, but all could not be gratified. Six judges of the supreme court were appointed—How many Mr. Keans thought themselves worthy candidates for these places? Secretaries were appointed—How many Chancellor Livingstons aspired to that dignity? How many sought with anxiety to be Attorneys, Marshals, Collectors, &c. &c. and how many were sorely disappointed; Perhaps fifty where one was gratified.—Here was an ample field opened for the operation of ambition, not that ambition which strives to excel in doing good—but an ambition fierce and cruel—impatient of opposition—an ambition which is now laboring to destroy the reputation of Federalists in Connecticut—which, since the apostasy, has been unceasingly inflicting mil-

\* It will be noticed that this equal representation in the Senate cannot be altered though amendments may be made. The writers say that the small states are indebted for this to the late Mr. Sherman.

man—which has gibbeted the fair fame of Washington, and which has lately turned Europe into one great slaughter house of human victims.

The funding system was a measure violently opposed to the feelings of the members of Congress from the south. Though the debt against the United States, was incurred for the general defence, and therefore a fair debt against the union, yet it was principally owned in Pennsylvania and the States to the northward of her. It was not pleasing to those who did not own it to contribute for its payment. *Patriotism* yielded to selfishness in this instance as it has *sometimes* done in others.

The provisions of the national government were calculated to foster commerce, and particularly to augment American shipping. The extra duties wisely laid on foreign bottoms, and on goods imported in them, among other measures, contributed greatly to this end. It was foreseen that, without such duties, the ships of other nations, would come to our ports and transport our produce to foreign markets. These duties operated to prevent this measure and to increase ship building—this to the northern States was an object of great importance. The southern States saw, in this, and other regulations, the increasing wealth of New-England. This was no consolation to them. Hence the present Congress is attempting to repeal those duties. The undeniable consequence of a repeal, will be, that other nations will immediately commence carriers for us.—this will diminish essentially the wealth of New-England, and this being well understood by our merchants, there is but one opinion among them on the subject.

It is surprising that a Connecticut man should have any doubts on this question, yet we find Abraham Bishop, who furnishes many creeds for his party, though not one of them has any confidence in his integrity, published a treatise,\* strongly urging that all our ships should be destroyed, and other nations, become our carriers. Such a treatise, one would apprehend, would be as little relished among the New-England merchants and ship builders, as the treatise in favor of repealing the tax on distilleries—both are well adapted for the climate of Virginia, where they build no ships, but manufacture much whisky. In New-England it is yet deemed more advantageous to morals and health, and more conducive to prosperity, to be celebrated for the number of our ships, than the number of our distilleries.

The war in Europe which originated in the French revolution, tended to augment the opposition of which I am speaking.—France at this period, broached a set of new doctrines, on almost every subject.—All the maxims in politics, morals and religion which had been sanctioned by the wisdom of ages, were openly exposed. The fascinating theory that all restraints upon the passions, and that government itself, were curses, was advocated. It was proclaimed that a new era had begun, and that the people of the United States were kindly invited to assist Frenchmen to establish a millennium, and participate with them in its joys. Self government alone was enjoined, and weak and wicked men were assured that they were soon to be perfect and Godlike.—It was a part of the same system to consider Great Britain as in hostility with the rest of the world, and that it was the duty of all nations to espouse the cause of France against this common enemy. Genet, aided by many of our countrymen, was spreading this net of destruction for us, by calling to his aid the consideration that during our revolution, his nation assisted us. Every engine was employed to excite the passions of Americans to enter into this dreadful controversy. About this period the famous resolutions of Mr. Madison, which were always considered as the production in reality of Mr. Jefferson, were submitted to Congress. The obvious tendency of these was to draw closer the bands between us and France, and to indirectly attack Great-Britain.

Washington and his councils, saw, in this enchanting system—this fascinating French theory, nothing but mischief. He saw that, under the specious garb of attempting to ameliorate the condition of man, a wild and intemperate attack was made, on the peace, order and happiness of the world. Instead therefore of listening to the voice which endeavored to allure the United States into that terrible vortex of French politics, he resisted every attempt to produce a partiality for either of the contending parties, and established with the strictest good faith, an upright and dignified neutrality.—Here he incurred the keen resentment of French philosophers and their dutiful disciples. Hence we find that during the first four years of his presidency, war was proclaimed against him and his measures, in a newspaper, printed by one Freneau who was then secretary to Mr. Jefferson.

\* It should be mentioned that this was before his father was made collector of the port of New-Haven.

[Fifth question and answer will be given Friday.]